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211A 2828 PCT-CPA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

MINORU TAKEBE

Serial No: 09/284,935

Filed: May 3, 1999

For: BENEFICIAL MICROORGANISM
PROPAGATION-PROMOTING
MATERIAL AND A PROCESS FOR
PREPARING THE SAME

Art Unit: 1651

Examiner: V. Afremova

FILED

FAX RECEIVED

JAN 10 2001

GROUP 1600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a Preliminary Amendment be entered in as part of this Continued Prosecution application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 (twice amended) as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material which promotes propagation of a beneficial microorganism that helps to sustain the health of living beings, said material being obtained by steps of inoculating koji mold on solid form grains to create a koji preparation resultant, adding a maximum of 50% by weight of water to said resultant to thereby hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, during said hydrolysis said koji mold and beneficial microorganisms contained in said resultant and/or added to the resultant are symbiotic in the resultant and propagation of said beneficial microorganisms is promoted when the beneficial microorganisms receives nutrients from the resultant so that said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms are cultivated together in said resultant, and removing a predetermined amount of phytic acid contained in said grains.